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Firm plans to expand Helena operations

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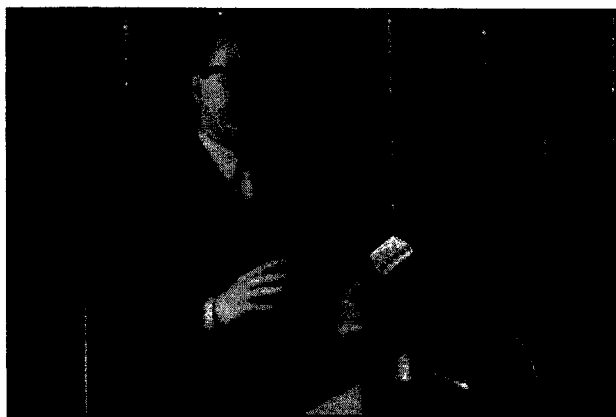
By ALLISON MAIER Independent Record helenair.com | Posted: Thursday, February 10, 2011
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Buy this photo Dylan Brown Independent Record Brett Jakovac, vice president of ACS Western, speaks Wednesday morning on the sixth floor of the Montana Club about creating 40 jobs for Montana residents.

Affiliated Computer Services, Inc., announced Wednesday that it plans to expand its Helena operation, adding 40 new jobs by the end of March and up to 200 over the next two years.

ACS, an information services company recently acquired by Xerox, currently employs about 85 people in the Helena area, said Brett Jakovac, vice president for the firm's operations in the western United States. The office provides services that help with the administrative side of government health care programs like Medicaid. The majority of the new jobs will be related to

information technology, including system analysts, audit reviewers and solutions engineers, as well as health care services specialists.

The company plans to eventually offer jobs that Montanans outside of Helena could do from home, Jakovac said, assuring that the work will not go out of state. He said the option to work beyond the office is a way to provide opportunities for individuals in rural areas. There are no plans to physically expand the company's Last Chance Gulch facility.

Jakovac said the company's growth in Helena does not represent an overall expansion within the firm, which is just supporting its current business operations. Jobs that can be moved from other locations — Atlanta, Georgia, for example — will be transferred over to Helena, he said.

Though Jakovac noted economic incentives that prompted the company to consider expanding in Montana, he said those incentives are still being finalized, so he could not say what they are. He cited the state's work ethic and economic successes as other draws.

At a press conference on the sixth floor of the Montana Club, Terry Myhre, executive director of the Montana Business Assistance Connection, read letters from senators Jon Tester and Max Baucus, as well as a handful of state legislators, commending the expansion of available jobs in the state.

ACS plans to have an exhibit at the Independent Record Career Fair in the Carroll College PE Center on Feb. 22. The next day, ACS will be holding an open house in its offices at 34 N. Last Chance Gulch — next to the Holiday Inn on the Walking Mall — from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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